

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF WAR

TRANSMITTING

REPORT OF AN INSPECTION OF THE SEVERAL
BRANCHES OF THE NATIONAL HOME FOR
DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS, BY
AN OFFICER OF THE INSPECTOR
GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT



DECEMBER 8, 1926.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs
and ordered to be printed

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1926

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 6, 1926.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MY DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with the provisions of the act of Congress approved August 18, 1894 (28 Stats. 412), I transmit herewith a report of an inspection of the several branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, made July 1 to September 3, 1916, by an officer of the Inspector General's Department, and invite attention to the remarks of the Acting Inspector General, dated the 6th instant, accompanying the report.

Sincerely yours,

DWIGHT F. DAVIS,
Secretary of War.

▼

LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 6, 1926.

To the SECRETARY OF WAR:

1. Forwarded herewith is the report of the annual inspection of the headquarters, the general depot, and the 10 branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926, made by Lieut. Col. R. C. Humber, Inspector General.

2. The report discloses that the general condition of the home is very satisfactory. However, as reported at the last annual inspection, some changes could be made in the regulations and policies of the home that would improve its general condition. These changes are specified in detail in the report, but I desire to invite special attention to the following and to emphasize the importance of their early accomplishment:

First. The special funds of the home should be expended more liberally at the branches where the larger proportion of the older members are cared for. These members are, in the main, veterans of the Civil and Spanish Wars, and it was from this class of members that these funds were principally derived.

Second. There are approximately 2,000 vacant beds for hospital patients. The Veterans' Bureau should be urged to take full advantage of these vacant beds.

Third. In the interest of the members and of uniformity in their treatment, it is believed that the money paid to certain members as compensation, should be paid to the treasurers of the branches, as is done in the case of pension money.

Fourth. The members receive from the Government without charge, food, shelter, clothing, amusement, and religious, medical and dental services and, in addition, most of them receive a compensation or a pension amounting in many cases, to \$50, \$65, \$80, and more per month. It is recommended that legislation be sought authorizing the Board of Managers to withhold a portion of pension or compensation money of members in return for their support and maintenance by the home.

Fifth. Under the present policy only men who have had military service are appointed as officers of the home. There are a few officers of the lower grades and some employees of the home who were appointed to their respective positions prior to the adoption of this policy, and who have not had military service. Most of these are men of ability and of long and efficient service with the home. There is a grave doubt of the wisdom and justice of barring them from promotion as officers on the mere ground of not having had military service.

Sixth. The officers and employees of the home are not classified under the classification act, and are not eligible for civil service retirement. It is recommended that they be placed on the same status as other Government employees having similar duties.

G. H. JAMERSON,
*Colonel, Inspector General's Department,
Acting the Inspector General*

ANNUAL REPORT OF AN INSPECTION OF THE SEVERAL BRANCHES OF THE NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOL- UNTEER SOLDIERS, FISCAL YEAR 1926

By Lieut. Col. R. C. HUMBER, I. G. D.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL,
Washington, December 6, 1926.

Subject: Annual report, National Home for Disabled Volunteer
Soldiers, fiscal year 1926.

To: The Secretary of War.

1. I submit the following report of the annual inspection of the headquarters, the general depot, and the 10 branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926, made pursuant to instructions contained in orders from The Adjutant General's Office dated June 17, 1926, and August 18, 1926.

This inspection was made under the provisions of the act of Congress approved August 18, 1894, which requires that once in each fiscal year the Secretary of War shall cause to be made by an officer of the Inspector General's Department a thorough inspection of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, its records, disbursements, management, discipline, and condition.

The inspection was begun on July 1, 1926, and was finished on September 3, 1926. I was accompanied by Mr. Lewis S. Friedman, expert accountant, Inspector General's Department, who assisted me in the inspection.

2. The 10 branches composing the home, the general depot at the Central Branch, and the headquarters office at the Central Branch, National Military Home, Dayton, Ohio, were inspected in the following order:

	Exhibit
Pacific Branch, Soldiers' Home, near Santa Monica, Calif., July 1-7, 1926	1
Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, S. Dak., July 11-13, 1926	2
Western Branch, National Military Home, near Leavenworth, Kans., July 14-17, 1926	3
Northwestern Branch, National Home, near Milwaukee, Wis., July 18-22, 1926	4
Danville Branch, National Home, Danville, Ill., July 22-25, 1926	5
Marion Branch, National Military Home, near Marion, Ind., July 26-27, 1926	6
Central Branch, National Military Home, near Dayton, Ohio, July 29-Aug. 3, 1926	7
The general depot, Central Branch, Aug. 3, 1926	8
Mountain Branch, National Sanatorium, near Johnson City, Tenn., Aug. 4-6, 1926	9
Southern Branch, National Soldiers' Home, near Hampton, Va., Aug. 24-28, 1926	10
Eastern Branch, National Soldiers' Home, near August, Me., Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 1926	11

3. *Management of the home.*—By law, the government of the home is vested in a board of managers composed of the President of the United States, the Secretary of War, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States (all *ex officio*), and seven members chosen by joint resolution of Congress. Four members constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the board. The law provides that from its own members the board shall elect a president, two vice presidents, and a secretary. At time of inspection, the board of managers was constituted as follows:

Gen. George H. Wood, president, Dayton, Ohio.

Maj. James W. Wadsworth, first vice president, Geneseo, N. Y.

Col. Roy L. Marston, second vice president, Skohegan, Me.

Capt. W. S. Albright, secretary, Leavenworth, Kan.

Capt. John C. Nelson, Logansport, Ind.

Hon. James S. Catherwood, Hoopeston, Ill.

Col. John J. Steadman, Los Angeles, Calif.

The term of office of the members of the Board of Managers is six years and so long thereafter as a successor is unnamed. Several members who have served six years or more are still in office, no successors having been chosen.

The president of the Board of Managers receives pay of \$4,000 per annum; the secretary receives \$500 per annum. The other members of the board receive no pay, but are allowed actual expenses while engaged in travel connected with the business of the home. Each member of the board, with the exception of the president, is allowed a clerk, who is paid \$450 per annum.

The general officers at the headquarters office, appointed by the Board of Managers, with Soldier's Home rank assigned to each, were, at time of inspection:

Col. C. W. Wadsworth, general treasurer.

Col. B. F. Hayden, chief surgeon.

Col. B. K. Cash, inspector general.

Col. F. W. Franke, assistant general treasurer.

4. *Records.*—The records of the home were, as a rule, complete and kept as required by home regulations.

It is again recommended that some modern system of indexing and filing correspondence be installed. The present system of chronological filing of carbon copies of correspondence in binders and indexing in another binder is obsolete and cumbersome, and is productive of delay and difficulty in finding needed data and records.

Some improvement has been made in keeping the record of council of administration of deceased members' effects. Adjutants should carefully check these records and should instruct newly assigned recorders in their duties.

Statistical records for annual reports have not in all instances been accurately kept. Instructions should be given to keep these records posted to date instead of waiting until the end of the fiscal year to compile them.

5. *Disbursements.*—The accounts of the president of the Board of Managers, the general treasurer, and the treasurers of the several branches, including the general, pension and post funds, members' deposit accounts, and patients' deposit accounts were inspected and

found to be in satisfactory condition. The balances shown at time of inspection were accounted for.

The accounts of appropriated funds receive a careful administrative examination at the headquarters of the home before they are forwarded to the General Accounting Office, Washington, D. C., for final audit.

During the past year the chief clerk of the treasurer's office of the Northwestern Branch embezzled funds totaling \$1,914.48. This clerk, who has since been discharged, was bonded by the treasurer of the branch at the latter's expense, and the shortage was made good by the bonding company. The policy recommended by inspectors for some years that employees who handle funds of the home be bonded has now been adopted.

Branch treasurers have not, in all instances, obtained receipts for voided, spoiled, and canceled checks, failing to that extent to render a proper accounting for them.

Closer supervision should be prescribed and given to the deposit accounts of members and patients. At present no account current or statement of balances is rendered. At the Marion Branch the branch treasurer had on deposit in a local bank and cash on hand \$54,464.34 pertaining to members' deposits. No reports are made of this fund, and the only verification is that made during the annual inspections by the War Department and by the inspector general of the home. It is believed that monthly trial balances should be made and verified by treasurers, and that quarterly accounts current should be forwarded to headquarters of the home.

6. *Special funds.*—At the time of inspection of headquarters, August 1, 1926, the special funds of the home, for which the president of the Board of Managers is accountable and responsible, amounting to \$943,981.83, or an increase of \$106,484.33 over the amount on hand at the time of last inspection. The balance on hand was composed of the following:

General post fund (active):		
Checking account, National Bank, Dayton, Ohio...	\$39,624.11	
United States Liberty bonds, United States certificates of indebtedness, and United States notes...	371,450.00	
		\$411,074.11
General post fund (reserve):		
Checking account, national bank, Dayton, Ohio...	528.12	
United States Liberty bonds.....	510,000.00	
		510,528.12
Ward fund:		
Checking account, national bank, Dayton, Ohio...	652.60	
United States Liberty bonds.....	17,000.00	
State of West Virginia bonds.....	4,727.00	
		22,379.60
Total.....		943,981.83

These funds have in large measure accrued through the deaths of members who left funds and effects, but no heirs at law or next of kin. Under the act of June 25, 1910, such property vests in the Board of Managers for the sole use and benefit of the post fund of the home, the proceeds being disposed of and distributed among the several branches as may be ordered by the Board of Managers.

The post fund has been used to augment the appropriations made by Congress. Employees such as choristers, radio operators, libra-

rians, special nurses, wheel-chair attendants, and janitors of theater and chapel, have been paid from the post fund. The fund has also been used for amusements and special purposes such as installing elevators in barracks, screening barracks, inclosing wards of hospitals, building waiting rooms and solaria for hospitals, building new flag poles, painting and improving chapels, libraries and theaters, etc.

It is believed that more liberal expenditures should be made from these funds for the benefit and welfare of the older members, since it was from them that the funds were principally derived.

7. *Discipline.*—As a rule, discipline was good at all the branches during the year. The principal offenses, as heretofore, were drunkenness, bringing in liquor, and absence without leave.

A very small per cent of the membership has displayed a lack of appreciation of the benefits of the home by repeated violations of regulations and by attempts to cause discontent among other members.

Punishments are mild in character, are in accordance with the regulations, and are imposed with due regard for the age and mental and physical condition of the offenders.

8. *Condition and general remarks.*—The condition of the home generally shows an improvement over that of last year, is very satisfactory, and gives evidence of efficient administration both by the local and headquarters authorities.

(1) *Amusements.*—Amusements are furnished free of cost to the members and consist usually of band concerts, motion pictures, radio, lectures, baseball, billiards, pool, cards, chess, and checkers.

(2) *Complaints.*—Opportunity was afforded the members of the home to meet the inspector privately for the purpose of bringing to his attention any grievances about which they desired to complain. The complaints, which were comparatively few in number, were given consideration by the inspector, and such as were meritorious were reported to the home authorities, who, as usual, displayed a desire to apply remedial measures wherever necessary and feasible.

(3) *Officers and employees.*—The officers and employees generally were efficient in the discharge of their duties. In a few cases medical officers had failed to comply with home regulations, and a very few of such officers had proven deficient in deportment and attention to duty, and, for these reasons, were discharged from the employ of the home.

Under the present law, officers of the home are appointed, transferred, or removed by the Board of Managers as the interests of the institution may require. Under the present policy only men who have had military service are appointed as officers of the home.

There are a few officers of the lower grades, and some employees of the home who were appointed to their respective positions prior to the adoption of this policy, who have not had military service. Most of these are men of ability and long experience in home work, and there is grave doubt of the wisdom and justice of barring them from promotion as officers on the mere ground of not having had military service.

The officers and employees of the home are not under civil service, are not classified under the classification act, and are not eligible for civil service retirement. It is believed that they should be

placed on the same status as other Government employees having similar duties.

(4) *Medical and hospital service.*—The hospitals were clean, well equipped and in excellent condition. They are efficiently administered, and are provided with consultants and specialists where necessary.

Occupational and physiotherapy aids are employed in most of the hospitals.

The facilities of the Mountain Branch have for the past several years been utilized exclusively for the care and treatment of members who have tuberculosis, for which purpose it is well equipped. At date of inspection, August 4, 1926, there were present at this branch 465 members, whereas it has a capacity of 1,146. The proceedings of the Board of Managers, June 19, 1926, show that the great and continued decrease in the membership of this sanatorium was discussed by the board and that the president of the board was instructed to arrange for its reopening as a home for domiciliary members as soon as possible, setting aside the necessary number of beds for tuberculous cases.

In addition to this sanatorium, hospital annexes for the care and treatment of tuberculosis are in operation at the Pacific, Western, Northwestern, Marion, and Central Branches. Since last inspection the Veterans' Bureau had begun construction at the Battle Mountain Sanitarium of an annex which, at time of inspection July 13, 1926, was nearing completion.

The Marion Branch is conducted solely as a psychiatric hospital for World War veterans. This branch is usually filled to capacity, and the records show that it has been found necessary to refuse admission to some applicants because of lack of space. On September 14, 1925, the Board of Managers directed its president to submit to Congress a request for an extension of the facilities of this hospital by the erection of three cottages with an aggregate capacity of 200 beds and an additional annex with a capacity of 50 beds. Such a bill was introduced but failed of passage at the last session of Congress.

As all the branches at present have many vacant beds in barracks and hospitals, it is believed that the necessity for additional construction is not urgent.

The Southern Branch cares for mental cases of the older members. There are many members of the Marion Branch who will never be rehabilitated. As there is room at the Southern Branch alone for more than 250 additional members, it is believed that it would be in the interest of the Government to utilize such space by either transferring some members from Marion to that branch, or admitting to the Southern Branch the younger men who are mental cases. The necessary change in design of barracks for such a purpose can be made at comparatively small expense.

(5) *Subsistence department.*—The messes at the several branches vary according to membership, appropriations, and the ability of the officer in charge and his assistants. There is no fixed component of the ration nor is there a prescribed money value.

Mess halls and kitchens were generally in good condition, well equipped, and satisfactorily administered. The food is, as a rule, well cooked, of good quality, and sufficient in quantity. Patients

under treatment for tuberculosis receive food in much greater variety and at much greater cost than other patients and members of the home. Many of the members of the home are old and should be furnished more fresh fruit and vegetables. At the present time the cost of the general mess ration of the home is less than the Army ration. While some of these men do not require so large a quantity of food as younger and more active men, they do, because of age and infirmities, require more milk, fresh vegetables, and fresh fruits, which cost more than the components of the Army ration. If appropriated funds are not available to furnish these articles in sufficient quantities, the special funds under the supervision of the president of the Board of Managers should be utilized to augment the subsistence appropriation, so that all old and infirm members may be furnished the delicacies which their condition requires.

The several branches have different specifications for similar items in a number of subsistence supplies. For instance, in purchasing corn flakes, one branch specifies that they should be delivered in boxes not to exceed 10 pounds each; another in original 25-pound cartons; and a third in packages of not less than 8 ounces.

One branch specifies sugar to be delivered in barrels; another in 100-pound bags. One branch specifies that the weight of beef should range 400 to 800 pounds per carcass; another specifies the weight from 500 to 800 pounds. One branch specifies that salt will be delivered in 10-pound sacks and another in 5-pound sacks. One branch specifies the weight of eggs; another does not.

There are other differences in specifications, and since the price varies with the character of the containers, etc., it is recommended that headquarters of the home carefully consider the present specifications and revise them so that those used by each branch will be as nearly alike as practicable.

(6) *Pension and compensation.*—In the interests of the members of the home and of uniformity in their treatment, it is believed that the money paid to certain members as compensation should be paid to the treasurer of the branch, as is done in the case of pension money.

The members of the home receive from the Government, without charge, food, shelter, clothing, amusement, and religious, medical and dental services, and in addition most of them receive a compensation or a pension amounting, in many cases, to \$50, \$65, \$80, and more, per month. It is believed that legislation should be enacted authorizing the Board of Managers to withhold a portion of pension or compensation money of members in return for their support and maintenance by the home, the money thus withheld to be accounted for in the general post fund.

(7) *Fire protection.*—At the fire drills held at each branch it was noted that some employees displayed inefficiency in turning in alarms.

It is recommended that complete fire drills be frequently held at irregular intervals, so that employees may gain experience in handling equipment and removing member patients from buildings.

An effort should be made at all the branches, so far as possible, to care for all helpless, crippled, and demented cases on the first floors of buildings, and to furnish additional fire protection where needed.

(8) *Capacity*.—The capacity of some of the branches of the home has not been fully utilized. The consolidated post return for the month ending September 30, 1926, shows 4,526 vacant beds distributed as follows:

	General patients	Neuropsychiatric patients	Tuberculosis patients	Barracks (domiciliary members)
Central Branch, Dayton, Ohio.....	259	-----	131	321
Northwestern Branch, Milwaukee, Wis.....	136	-----	279	187
Eastern Branch, Augusta, Me.....	175	-----	18	607
Southern Branch, Hampton, Va.....	55	102	-----	399
Western Branch, Leavenworth, Kans.....	41	-----	21	465
Pacific Branch, Santa Monica, Calif.....	6	-----	41	32
Marion Branch, Marion, Ind.....	-----	20	-----	-----
Danville Branch, Danville, Ill.....	69	-----	-----	471
Mountain Branch, Johnson City, Tenn.....	29	-----	608	-----
Battle Mountain Sanitarium, Hot Springs, S. Dak.....	47	-----	7	-----
Total.....	817	122	1, 105	2, 482

It is recommended that information concerning this available space be brought to the attention of the Director of the Veterans' Bureau to the end that full advantage may be taken of existing facilities.

(9) *Libraries*.—At each branch there is a library well equipped and supplied with books, newspapers, and magazines.

The service and efficiency of these libraries have shown a marked improvement under intelligent supervision and installation of modern methods by the supervising librarian of the headquarters of the home, who makes periodical visits to the several branches for the purpose of inspecting and assisting in the administration of the libraries.

It was again found that some libraries closed at 4 or 4.30 p. m. Instructions should be given to the end that all library reading rooms be kept open at least one hour after the evening meal.

At some of the libraries magazines were not placed in the reading rooms promptly upon receipt, but were kept until all the magazines for a particular month had been received. This practice should be discontinued.

(10) *Religious services*.—Each of the branches has a Protestant and a Catholic chaplain, who are either officers or employees of the home. The services held by them are the usual ones conducted by the respective faiths.

Under the home regulations, the chaplains have charge of the spiritual welfare of the members and are required to make frequent visits to the hospitals, to answer promptly all requests for attendance, and to take an active interest in all that relates to discipline and the moral and spiritual well-being of the members.

(11) *Laundries and dry cleaning plants*.—Each branch has a laundry and, with the exception of the Battle Mountain Sanitarium, a dry cleaning plant. The work, as a rule, was good. With closer supervision on the part of the quartermasters, improvement in laundering and cleaning at nearly all the branches could be brought about.

It is again recommended that a dry cleaning plant be installed at the Battle Mountain Sanitarium.

(12) *Building and grounds.*—The buildings were in a fair state of repair, considering the limited sum appropriated for that purpose, but some needed repairs and replacements have not been accomplished due to lack of funds.

The grounds, generally were in good condition, those of the Pacific Branch being the only exception. While the unsatisfactory condition of the grounds at this branch may be attributed, in part, to scarcity of water and to activities incident to construction in progress at time of inspection, there nevertheless was evidence of lack of sufficient supervision and of energetic effort to accomplish all possible with the means at hand.

The condition of the roads at all the branches was good.

(13) *Dairies and farms.*—Dairies are maintained at four of the branches. These were clean and the herds were in good condition. Milk of good quality was produced at a reasonable cost, and the maintenance of dairies at these branches has served to lower the local market price of such additional milk as was necessary to purchase from outside sources.

(14) *Membership.*—The act of Congress approved June 7, 1924, contains the following provision as to membership:

The following persons shall be entitled to the benefits of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, and may be admitted thereto upon the order of a member of the Board of Managers, namely: Honorably discharged officers, soldiers, sailors, or marines who served in the regular, volunteer, or other forces of the United States, or in the Organized Militia or National Guard when called into Federal service, and who are disabled by diseases or wounds and who have no adequate means of support and by reason of such disability are either temporarily, or permanently, incapacitated from earning a living.

(15) *Statistics.*—The average per capita cost of maintenance based on the average number of members present during the fiscal year 1926 was \$542.32 as against \$541.89 last year.

The average number present during the past fiscal year was 13,822, as against 14,363 last year.

The report of the Board of Managers contains information relative to statistics and the financial transactions of the home.

9. *Conclusions.*—The records of the home were generally kept as prescribed by the regulations.

Disbursements were made on proper vouchers and in conformity with requirements of accounting. The funds appropriated by Congress have been wisely and economically expended and carefully safeguarded.

The management of the various activities of the home by the Board of Managers has continued to be efficient and reflects credit upon the members of the board and also upon all the headquarters officials who have given close supervision to all the home's affairs.

The members of the home are well fed and clothed, are provided with suitable shelter, and are furnished with suitable recreation.

The needs of the sick are attended by competent medical officers and graduate female nurses, who are kind, patient, and considerate in their treatment. The hospitals are clean and equipped with modern appliances.

The members of the home, in general, are comfortable and contented and appreciate the benefits they receive.

R. C. HUMBER,

Lieutenant Colonel, Inspector General's Department.

1. PACIFIC BRANCH, SOLDIERS' HOME, NEAR SANTA MONICA, CALIF.

1. This inspection was made July 1-7, 1926. All parts of the branch, including the barracks, hospital, wards, mess hall, store-rooms, theater, chapel, library stables, power house, greenhouse, grounds, and cemetery were inspected by me.

2. The Pacific Branch was established in 1888 by an act of Congress, approved March 2, 1887. The reservation comprises 675.50 acres. It is located in Los Angeles County, Calif., about 4 miles east of Santa Monica. There are 99 buildings on the reservation, including 12 frame barracks, 5 hospital buildings (1 reinforced concrete and tile, and 4 frame), and 82 other buildings, including quarters for officers and employees. The land was acquired by donation and exchange, and cost the United States nothing.

3. *Officers.*—At the date of inspection the officers of the branch were—

Col. Oliver K. Marshall, governor.

Maj. George T. Baggott, treasurer.

Col. James A. Mattison, surgeon.

Capt. E. B. Newcomb, quartermaster.

Capt. John Miller, commissary of subsistence.

Capt. Charles F. Fiege, adjutant and inspector.

Maj. Clarence J. Kenny, chief, tuberculosis service.

Rev. S. A. Drummond, chaplain.

Capt. Henry P. Dulaney, first assistant surgeon.

Drs. F. B. Dolan, R. C. Shawhan, L. R. Croft, A. E. Gill, V. S. Owen, F. F. DuPree, R. W. Karras, R. A. Akin, R. W. Eppley, P. J. Germon, D. G. Bussey, H. Lynch, C. W. Allen, R. C. Fuller, J. R. Neal, C. W. Andrews, and R. W. Elston, assistant surgeons.

Changes in officers since July 1, 1925:

Gain:		Loss:	
By appointment	6	By resignation	5
By transfer	2	By transfer	1
Total	8	Total	6

4. *Population.*—At time of inspection there were—

Officers:		Members:	
Present	25	Present	2,830
Absent	1	Absent	1,077
Total	26	Total	3,907

The members have had service as follows:

Civil War	1,235
Indian war	158
Spanish war	1,315
World War	1,062
Other service	137
Total	3,907

5. Since last inspection the following construction, improvements and other extraordinary expenditures were paid for from the post fund:

Elevator, hospital annex No. 1	\$5,103.00
Screening barracks and other buildings	4,900.35
Transportation of incompetent members to Southern Branch	4,838.44

Elevator, barrack No. 10.....	\$4,243.01
Wiring hospital annex No. 1 for radio and installing receiving set, Markham Hall.....	1,234.22
Special dinner, July 4, 1925.....	1,056.70
Stair treads, Markham Hall.....	265.00
Repairs, post-office building.....	180.43
Safety door locks for theater.....	102.15
	<hr/> 21,923.30

The following is a list of major repairs, construction, and improvements, with cost of same, made during the year from funds appropriated by Congress:

Interior and exterior painting.....	\$12,819.73
Resurfacing, oiling and rolling roads.....	6,405.00
Laying 12-inch sewer line for connection with city sewer system.....	2,493.75
Repairs to sewer line and lavatories and rewiring for radio, hospital annex No. 1.....	1,797.21
Changing feedwater heater, power house.....	1,094.63
Replacing brick wall around ice tanks.....	771.44
Installing shower baths in barracks, etc.....	685.69

6. By the second deficiency act of March 4, 1925, there was appropriated \$1,500,000 for the construction at this branch of a fireproof hospital of a capacity of 500 beds. The president of the board of managers reported to the board that bids had been opened on January 18, 1926, and awards made as follows:

General construction.....	\$986,485
Mechanical equipment.....	179,000
Elevators.....	24,972

He also stated that these awards will permit the installation of all extra equipment in the powerhouse, steam and water lines, etc., and leave a margin sufficient to take care of all necessary equipment in the hospital.

The plans and specifications for the new hospital were prepared by the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department. The construction was in progress and was about 26 per cent complete at time of inspection. It appeared that the hospital building was being constructed in a most substantial manner. The superintendent of construction and inspectors were furnished by the Office of the Supervising Architect. They appeared interested in the work and were giving it close supervision.

7. This branch cares for more members than any other branch of the Home and its capacity is inadequate to meet the demands of the veterans. The new hospital will meet a long-felt want, as the old hospital is a fire trap.

The barracks at this branch are constructed of wood. It is believed that they should be gradually replaced by barracks of fire-proof construction.

The branch authorities report that the following needed repairs and improvements have not been accomplished due to insufficient appropriation:

Repairs to roads, cement walks, curbs, and gutters.....	\$25,000
Renewing and remodeling water sections in barracks.....	66,000

It was also reported that the following new construction is needed:

A new fireproof building to replace the old frame pavilion back of the tuberculosis unit.

Two modern type fireproof barracks.....	\$500, 000
Laundry and dry-cleaning plant.....	25, 000
Reservation fence.....	48, 500
Fireproof paint shop and oil house.....	6, 500

It appears from the proceedings of the Board of Managers of March 23, 1926, that the southern department, University of California, had selected for its location a large section of the ground east of the Pacific Branch, and it was desired by the university to obtain a portion of the home reservation for the maintenance of an agricultural department. The Board of Managers was agreeable to the proposition of the county of Los Angeles acquiring 160 acres of the Pacific Branch reservation to present to the university for an agricultural college and experimental laboratory, provided the proper legislation could be obtained from the Congress of the United States, authorizing the sale for the sum of \$1,000,000, to be paid in cash, and making the funds received from the sale of such land immediately available for the construction of additional barracks of a fireproof character and other needed improvements at the Pacific Branch. A bill was introduced, but failed to pass at the last session of Congress. The land which it was proposed to sell is not necessary for the operation of the branch, and is not in close proximity to any of the barracks or quarters.

8. The store and restaurant are operated under the supervision of the post fund. The net profit for the year from the two combined was about \$1,200. More patronage could be had if the store hours were arranged so as to accomodate the members. The store opens too late in the mornings and closes too early in the evenings.

9. The grounds of this branch did not present the appearance to be expected of a Government institution. The lawns, grounds, roads, gutters, and walks were not in satisfactory condition. While lack of funds is, in part, responsible for this condition, it is the opinion of the inspector that with closer cooperation and supervision, more could have been accomplished with the means at hand.

10. The orchard and groves continue to give indications of neglect, as reported last year. If not soon put in condition, the trees will die.

11. The shops, storerooms, and storehouses were not orderly in arrangement and their surroundings were in a poor state of police. While construction activities may, in part, be responsible for this condition, there were evidences of lack of close supervision and energetic effort.

12. Some barracks were in need of interior painting.

13. Some beds in barracks and hospital annex were in need of painting.

14. The septic tank is apparently overloaded, but this will be corrected when connection with the city sewerage is made, which, it is reported, will be completed in a short time.

15. With its existing facilities, this branch should produce more fruits and fresh vegetables.

16. The cemetery is not well cared for. More work and closer supervision are necessary.

17. Closer supervision is necessary in inspecting reclaimed clothing prior to reissue.

18. The hospitals were very clean. The care of patients at time of inspection appeared to be excellent. It was noted that in the case of two patients, one of whom died July 10, 1924, and another who died May 30, 1925, there was neglect on the part of the ward surgeons and nurses in charge of the cases. These cases were investigated and disciplinary action has been taken in the case of the officers and employees concerned.

19. At time of inspection the eggs delivered to the branch were very small. The specifications under which they were purchased were: "Strictly fresh eggs; clean; of local production; 30 dozen to the case; to be delivered as required." No weight was mentioned as is the case in Federal Specifications Board, Specification No. 381. The matter was corrected by headquarters of the home.

20. *Records*.—The records of this branch, with the exceptions noted, are as prescribed. Statistics for annual report were not kept up to date. In the mess hall it was reported that in emergency, when regular employees are absent, other persons not shown on the pay roll, are put to work for a day, their pay being taken care of by the regular employee. This is highly irregular.

21. *Disbursements*.—The accounts, disbursements and records of the treasurer were examined and found to be in satisfactory condition. The balances shown at date of inspection were properly accounted for.

The chief clerk types many official letters and does too much detail work himself, instead of dividing same among his assistants. He is an excellent man, has been on duty for many years, and rarely takes any vacation. The records do not show any absence from duty during the fiscal year 1926. It is believed he should be required to take leave yearly.

22. *Management*.—With the exceptions noted, the affairs of this branch have been satisfactorily administered.

23. *Discipline*.—Discipline is good. Indulgence in intoxicating liquor is responsible for a large percentage of delinquencies.

24. *Condition*.—The general conditions of the branch, with the exceptions noted above, are satisfactory.

2. BATTLE MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM, HOT SPRINGS, S. DAK.

1. This inspection was made July 11-13, 1926. All parts of the branch, including the hospital, wards, storeroom, chapel, library, stables, power house, greenhouse, grounds, and cemetery were inspected by me.

2. This branch was established in April, 1907, under an act of Congress approved May 29, 1902. The reservation comprises 101.36 acres. It is located in Fall River County, Hot Springs, S. Dak. There are 28 buildings on the reservation, including 6 hospital buildings of stone and 22 other buildings, of which 1 is brick, 2 concrete, 6 stone, and 13 frame. Sixty-seven acres of the land were acquired by donation and 34.36 acres were purchased at a cost of \$18,452.81.

3. *Officers*.—At date of inspection the officers of the branch were: Col. James A. Barker, governor and surgeon.
Maj. William H. Stanley, treasurer and quartermaster.
Capt. Arza P. Jones, chaplain.

Cpts. Marcus A. Newell and Frank C. Fuller, and Lieuts. Edward R. Lindner, Charles S. Lobel, and Paul E. Richards, assistant surgeons.

Col. James A. Barker was absent at time of inspection. He is a Reserve Corps officer of the Medical Corps, United States Army, and was on active duty for 15 days.

Changes in officers since July 1, 1925:

Gain:		Loss:	
By appointment	3	By resignation	2
By transfer	1	By transfer	2
Total	4	Total	4

4. *Population.*—At time of inspection there were—

Officers:		Members:	
Present	7	Present	349
Absent	1	Absent	240
Total	8	Total	589

The members present were reported to have had the following service:

Civil War	81
Indian War	17
Spanish War	120
World War	112
Other service	19
Total	349

5. Since last inspection a new slop-tank house was constructed in rear of service building at a cost of \$285, which was paid from the post fund.

The following is a list of major repairs, etc., with cost of same, made during the year from appropriated funds:

New tile floor in main kitchen	\$1,200
Repairing freight elevator in service building	400
Retaining wall in rear of gardener's cottage	350
Grading and repairing roadways	316

6. The tuberculosis annex being built on the reservation by the Veterans' Bureau was nearing completion at time of inspection. The building is of the latest plan for hospitals and it appears that it will be equipped with modern machinery and equipment.

When the addition of this hospital is under operation, it is believed that an executive officer should be provided for in the personnel. Under the present plan, when the governor is absent the treasurer, who is also quartermaster, becomes acting governor, and there being no adjutant, he also acts as adjutant. These multitudinous duties are such as to preclude one officer performing them in the most efficient manner.

7. The old smokestack should be torn down.

8. Police around the buildings is poor.

9. Porches to wards poorly policed. Soiled linens piled on porch; should be placed in proper receptacle.

10. *Records.*—The records of this branch were kept according to prescribed regulations.

11. *Disbursements*.—The accounts, disbursements, and records of the treasurer, covering the period since the previous inspection, were examined and found to be in satisfactory condition. The balances shown at time of inspection were properly accounted for. The office is well managed and its affairs conducted in a businesslike manner.

12. *Management*.—This branch has been well administered under the leadership of Col. James A. Barker, governor and surgeon, and its affairs have received due consideration. Due to limited appropriations, farm and garden operations have been restricted and fresh fruits and vegetables are at times difficult to obtain, and are comparatively high at this branch. It is believed that at this branch gardening should be encouraged.

13. *Discipline*.—Discipline has been good. There were 31 delinquencies during the year, 18 of which were for drunkenness, 9 absence without leave, and 4 for violation of rules and other misconduct.

14. *Condition*.—The general conditions of the branch are satisfactory and reflect credit on Maj. William H. Stanley, treasurer and quartermaster, who also was acting governor at time of inspection, for carrying on the work in an able manner.

3. WESTERN BRANCH, NATIONAL MILITARY HOME, NEAR LEAVENWORTH, KANS.

1. This inspection was made July 14-17, 1926. All parts of the branch, including the barracks, hospital, wards, storerooms, theater, chapels, library, stables, power house, grounds, farm, dairy, and cemetery were inspected by me.

2. The Western Branch was established in 1884 by authority of an act of Congress approved July 5, 1884, and comprises 644 $\frac{1}{5}$ acres. It is located in Leavenworth County, Kan. There are 66 buildings on the reservation, including 13 barracks (all brick), 1 hospital building of brick, 1 tuberculosis annex, and 51 other buildings, including quarters for officers and employees, of which 20 are brick, 2 stone, 18 frame, and 11 combination brick or stone and frame.

The land was acquired by donation with the exception of 4 $\frac{1}{5}$ acres, which cost \$5,650.

3. *Officers*.—At date of inspection the officers of the branch were: Brig. Gen. C. H. Barth, United States Army, retired, governor.

Maj. M. E. Drew, treasurer.

Maj. E. Byrd, surgeon.

Capt. A. B. Conley, quartermaster.

Capt. H. Whittlieb, commissary of subsistence.

Capt. E. C. Lingenfelser, adjutant and inspector.

Capt. D. L. Berry and F. Taton, chaplains.

Capt. A. W. Bartel, O. A. Menges, A. McClain, F. I. Yates, J. W. Wilcox, and Lieuts. E. S. Burwell, S. A. Pyfrin, and J. S. Rushton, assistant surgeons.

Changes in officers since July 1, 1925:

Gain:		Loss:	
By appointment	1	By resignation	2
By transfer	4	By transfer	3
Total	5	Total	5

4. *Population.*—At time of inspection there were—

Officers:		Members:	
Present	15	Present	1,418
Absent	1	Absent	701
Total	16	Total	2,119

The members have had service as follows:

Civil War	789
Spanish War	786
World War	544
Total	2,119

5. The following extraordinary expenditures were made during the year from the post fund:

Covered porches on convalescent barracks	\$3,127.32
Furniture for porches	445.50
Transfer of insane members	311.88
Hospital solaria	761.33
Repairs to mental wards, main hospital	1,149.33
Transportation of members	2,899.16
Screens for buildings	1,590.00
Total	10,284.52

6. The following is a list of major disbursements for services and material made during the year from funds appropriated by Congress for repairs:

Painting interior and exterior of buildings	\$7,805.23
Hospital and hospital annex	7,313.62
Barracks and buildings	16,647.34
Steam, water, and gasoline	5,060.00
Boiler house and shops	6,574.11
Quarters and dormitories	2,983.90
Electric lines and light circuits	1,603.12

It was reported that due to insufficient appropriations it has been impracticable to keep the roads and driveways in good condition.

7. The store and hotel at this branch are operated by the superintendent of the post fund. The store made a profit of over \$7,100 for the year. The hotel, including the lunch counter, showed a loss of \$204.83. The hotel is an accommodation to the relatives and friends of members and serves the purpose for which it is intended. It is believed that by consolidating the duties of the employees and by catering more readily to the tastes and needs of the members at the hotel, the lunch counter and hotel, when taken together, could be operated without any loss. The store is efficiently operated and reflects credit on the superintendent of the post fund and the post fund clerk, who give the business personal attention and keep the proper supplies available.

8. At time of inspection the library was closed at 4.30 p. m. At some other branches where libraries were open at night it was noted

that they were well patronized. It is believed that the working hours of the present force should be so arranged that members will be provided opportunity to use the library after their evening meal.

9. The records of the occupational therapy service should show articles manufactured and their disposition. At time of inspection there was no record to show the articles which should be on hand.

10. A dairy is operated at this branch. The herd yielded 37,284 gallons of milk during the year at an approximate cost of 24 cents per gallon. In addition, 79,000 gallons of milk were purchased at 15 cents per gallon and 19,280 gallons at 25 cents per gallon. Effort should be made to increase the number of cows and their milk production.

The farm produced fruits and vegetables amounting to \$2,507.57 which were used in the commissary.

11. There were flies and cockroaches in some of the buildings. More vigorous measures should be taken to rid the branch of this nuisance.

12. The policing around the quartermaster storehouse was not good, and the grass in places was in need of cutting.

13. The records of subsistence supplies on hand are not accurately kept. It is suggested that the stock account be kept so as to show the number of cans on hand and that the amount be figured in pounds only at the end of the month.

14. A new refrigerator should be installed in the tuberculosis annex.

15. Roads are in need of repair.

16. The basements occupied as quarters for members are not suitable for the purpose, although they were in an excellent state of cleanliness.

17. Barracks Nos. 1 and 2 should be provided with elevators.

18. *Records.*—The records of this branch, with the exceptions noted, appeared to be kept as prescribed.

19. *Disbursements.*—The accounts, disbursements, and records of the treasurer were examined and found to be in a satisfactory condition. The balances shown at date of inspection were properly accounted for. The office is conducted in an efficient manner.

20. *Management.*—The affairs of this branch have been well administered.

21. *Discipline.*—Discipline has been good. The number of delinquencies was about the same as last year, with a small increase in the trials for drunkenness.

22. *Condition.*—The general conditions of the branch are satisfactory and showed a general improvement over last inspection. Its condition reflects credit upon the governor.

4. NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NATIONAL HOME, NEAR MILWAUKEE, WIS.

1. The inspection of this branch was made July 18–22, 1926. All parts of the branch, including the barracks, hospital, wards, store-rooms, theater, chapels, library, stables, power house, greenhouse, grounds, and cemetery were inspected by me.

2. The Northwestern Branch was established in 1867 under authority of an act of Congress approved March 21, 1866. It is located 4 miles west of Milwaukee.

The reservation comprises 382.25 acres. There are 71 buildings on the reservation, including 5 barracks (4 brick and 1 veneered brick), 2 brick hospital buildings, and 64 other buildings, including quarters for officers and employees. The land was acquired by purchase at a cost of \$79,544.54.

3. At time of inspection the officers of the branch were:

Col. C. M. Pearsall, governor.

Maj. C. E. Newton, treasurer.

Lieut. Col. T. S. Roach, surgeon.

Maj. Robert H. Stanley, chief of tuberculosis service.

Capt. Cy H. Lyle, quartermaster.

Capt. Albert G. Thomas, commissary of subsistence.

Capt. B. L. Towson, adjutant and inspector.

Revs. M. J. Huston and M. J. Argus, chaplains.

Drs. M. F. Maguire, S. L. Mackey, L. T. Cox, C. A. Toline, W. R. Hunt, C. Irving, L. W. Pence, F. A. Mikillip, E. J. Kehoe, B. F.

Cook, W. E. White, W. E. Clark, and J. W. Plant, assistant surgeons.

Changes in officers since July 1, 1925:

Gain:		Loss:	
By appointment	7	By resignation	4
By transfer	4	By dropped from rolls	2
		By suspension, resignation	
Total	11	later accepted	4
		By transfer	4
		Total	14

4. *Population.*—At time of inspection there were—

Officers:		Members:	
Present	19	Present	1,147
Absent	3	Absent	428
Total	22	Total	1,575

The members have had service as follows:

Civil War	369
Spanish War	537
World War	669
Total	1,575

In the membership there are five ex-service women who are cared for in a private ward of the tuberculosis hospital Annex No. 1.

5. Since last inspection the following construction, improvements, and extraordinary expenditures were made from the post fund:

Construction of reception room, general hospital	\$3,000.00
Sun porch, hospital and other porch inclosures	5,972.26
Painting theater and repairs to theater seats, etc	1,826.05
Fire escape, hospital, etc	3,375.00
Installing radiation, shower stalls and showers, and other miscellaneous repairs	1,539.36
Total	15,712.67

For repairs, including general carpentry, plumbing, and painting, etc., there was expended \$28,876.44 from appropriated funds.

6. A special appropriation of \$17,500 was made in the first deficiency act of the fiscal year 1926 for repairing the roadways at this branch. Work was in progress at time of inspection. The appropriation was reported as not sufficient to put all the roadways in first-class condition.

7. The post fund store and restaurant at this branch are operated as a concession. The post fund receives the benefit of the rental of \$275 monthly.

8. The main hospital and tuberculosis annex were clean and gave evidence of being well administered.

There were complaints made by a so-called grievance committee which were referred to me for investigation during my inspection. A thorough investigation of the matters complained of was made and such complaints as were justified were given consideration by the home authorities and corrective measures applied where practicable.

9. The buildings, roads, and grounds were well policed and made a creditable appearance.

10. *Records.*—The records of the branch were as a rule well kept. A test check of the records showing stock on hand in the commissary showed that the cards did not agree with the inventory.

It was noted that an item of \$33.06 receipted for by the quartermaster's chief clerk as being from sale of occupational therapy supplies in the tuberculosis annex, was not taken up previous to the inspection. The amount was made good at time of inspection and accounted for.

The records show that there was no prescription whisky on hand in the hospital from December 26, 1925, to February 16, 1926. This was evidently caused by the surgeon, since released, not passing the request of the druggist in due time.

11. *Disbursements.*—The accounts, disbursements, and records of the treasurer were examined and found to be in satisfactory condition. The balances shown at date of inspection were properly accounted for.

In August, 1925, the chief clerk of the treasurer's office embezzled funds totaling \$1,914.49. This clerk, who has since been discharged, was bonded by the treasurer of the branch at the latter's expense, and the shortage was made good by the bonding company.

12. *Management.*—The affairs of this branch have been administered in a satisfactory manner.

13. *Discipline.*—Discipline has been good. Liquor was the cause of the greatest number of trials.

14. *Condition.*—The affairs of this branch have been administered in a satisfactory manner.

5. DANVILLE BRANCH, NATIONAL HOME, DANVILLE, ILL.

1. This branch was inspected by me July 22-25, 1926. All parts of the branch, including the barracks, hospital, wards, storerooms, theater, chapel, library, stables, power house, greenhouse, grounds, and cemetery were inspected by me.

2. The Danville Branch was established in 1898, by authority of an act of Congress approved June 4, 1897. It is located at Dan-

ville, Ill., and comprises 324.56 acres. There are 57 buildings on the reservation, including 14 brick barracks, 1 brick hospital, and 42 other buildings, including quarters for officers and employees, of which 18 are brick, 3 brick and frame, 19 frame, 1 frame and glass, and 1 frame and stone. The land was acquired by purchase at a cost of \$45,961.26.

3. *Officers.*—At date of inspection the officers of the branch were:

Col. J. A. Hadley, governor.

Maj. F. F. Bott, treasurer.

Maj. A. B. Thompson, surgeon.

Capt. R. W. Jones, quartermaster.

Capt. A. V. Bormann, commissary.

Capt. C. R. Forshier, adjutant and inspector.

Capt. J. D. Ewers and J. M. Sheedy, chaplains.

Capt. L. S. Hughes, C. W. McClanahan, G. L. Prentice, M. Lando, F. Phillips, and Lieut. B. L. Chipley, assistant surgeons.

Changes in officers since July 1, 1925:

Gain:		Loss:	
By appointment.....	2	By resignation.....	2
By transfer.....	1	By transfer.....	1
Total.....	3	Total.....	3

4. *Population.*—At time of inspection there were—

Officers:		Members:	
Present.....	13	Present.....	1,382
Absent.....	1	Absent.....	522
Total.....	14	Total.....	1,904

There are 15 women members. Of these there were 9 present, 3 in hospital and 6 in barracks. The women in the barracks have a separate dining room and are well provided for.

The members have had service as follows:

Civil War.....	781
Indian War.....	26
Spanish War.....	750
World War.....	302
Other service.....	45
Total.....	1,904

5. Since last inspection the following improvements and construction were paid for from the post fund:

Screening barracks.....	\$5,987.00
Solaria, wards 1, 2, and 4, hospital.....	3,316.44
Total.....	9,303.44

The following is a list of major repairs made during the year from funds appropriated by Congress:

Repairing and painting barracks.....	\$3,783.37
Repairing and painting hospital.....	6,126.83
Repairing and painting offices and employees' quarters.....	1,553.29
Repairing powerhouse.....	3,500.00
Repairing shops.....	1,168.00
Reroofing barn sheds, repairing sidewalks, etc.....	1,113.60
Total.....	17,245.09

The following improvements and repairs, with estimated cost, are reported to be desirable but have not been accomplished, due to insufficient appropriation:

Rebuild steam lines.....	\$75, 000
Rebuild and extend sewer lines.....	10, 000
Rebuilding electric and telephone lines.....	7, 500
Replace broken concrete work.....	1, 000
Garage for fire equipment.....	1, 000

Effort has been made to keep the plant in working condition. With more funds available, better service would result.

6. The store and restaurant at this branch are operated by a concessionaire, who pays \$205 per month for the privilege. This money is accounted for in the post fund.

7. The hospital was exceptionally clean and well administered.

8. The grounds are well policed and gave evidence of good care.

9. *Records.*—The records as a rule were well kept.

It was noted that, through error, one employee was kept on the pay roll for June, 1926, while he did not work. His pay check of \$48 was not delivered to him and same will be canceled.

The record of council of administration of deceased members' effects had several errors in entries since June 1, 1926. It was not certified by the adjutant at the end of June as required.

The record of subsistence supplies on hand was not accurately kept. The amount on hand in a test check of a few items did not agree exactly with the amount shown by the record card.

10. *Disbursements.*—The accounts, disbursements, and records of the treasurer were examined and found to be in satisfactory condition. The balances shown at date of inspection were properly accounted for.

The firm which had the contract for embalming at 40 cents per body for the fiscal year 1926, canceled its contract on December 7, 1925, and refused to comply with its terms. As a result there was paid to another contractor \$514.60 more than the cost would have been under the old contract. Effort will be made to adjust the matter.

11. *Management.*—The affairs of this branch have been administered in an efficient manner. The governor is forceful and energetic and the branch under his able administration has become a smooth-running institution.

12. *Discipline.*—Discipline has been satisfactory. There has, however, been an increase in the number of delinquencies due to drunkenness and bringing intoxicating liquor into the branch.

13. *Conditions.*—The general conditions are very satisfactory.

6. MARION BRANCH, NATIONAL MILITARY HOME, NEAR MARION, IND.

1. This branch was inspected July 26-27, 1926. All parts of the branch, including the barracks, cottages, hospital, wards, storerooms, theater, chapel, library, stables, powerhouse, greenhouse, dairy, barns, grounds, and cemetery were inspected by me.

2. The Marion Branch was established in 1890 by authority of an act of Congress approved July 23, 1888, and comprises 299.03 acres. It is located in Grant County, Ind., 2 miles from Marion. There are 67 buildings on the reservation, including 11 barracks or cottages, all brick, 4 hospital buildings, and 52 other buildings, including quarters for officers and employees, of which 20 are brick, 28 frame, and 4 concrete. The land was acquired by purchase at a cost of \$34,263.75.

3. *Officers.*—At date of inspection the officers of the branch were:

Col. William MacLake, medical director and superintendent.

Maj. D. R. Gilfillan, assistant medical director.

Maj. P. G. Froemming, treasurer.

Capt. G. M. Whitaker, quartermaster.

Capt. James Hallahan, commissary of subsistence.

Capt. F. A. Cleveland, adjutant and inspector, executive officer.

Rev. E. S. Scott, chaplain.

Cpts. J. D. Murphy, C. B. Shrout, R. H. Stenger, L. E. Trent, F. M. Cook, J. VanD. Nelson, T. M. Wood, G. W. Lee, and Lieuts. E. A. Gunderson, B. A. Colomb, S. L. Allen, C. C. Phillips, C. F. Davis, J. F. Amick, and W. N. Brashears, assistant surgeons.

At time of inspection Colonel MacLake was present in his quarters on sick leave.

Changes in officers since July 1, 1925:

Gain:		Loss:	
By appointment.....	1	By resignation.....	4
By transfer.....	3	By transfer.....	1
Total.....	4	Total.....	5

4. *Population.*—At time of inspection there were—

Officers:		Members:	
Present.....	21	Present.....	1,037
Absent.....	1	Absent.....	22
Total.....	22	Total.....	1,059

The members have had service as follows:

Spanish War.....	23
World War.....	1,018
Other service.....	18
Total.....	1,059

5. The following construction, improvement, and other extraordinary expenditures were made during the year from the Post Fund:

Barrack chairs.....	\$2,416.00
Screening cottages, library, etc.....	2,005.74
Alterations and improvements to store and restaurant.....	1,967.93
Steel flagpole.....	765.31
Landscaping around tuberculosis hospital.....	572.50
Painting and improving chapel, library, and memorial hall.....	430.75
Total.....	8,158.23

For general repairs to buildings, including plumbing, papering, painting, roofing, etc., there was disbursed from funds appropriated by Congress the sum of \$36,479.22.

It was reported that the following new construction, repairs, and improvements were needed but have not been accomplished due to funds not having been appropriated for same.

Three additional cottages and 1 additional annex to treatment hospital	\$600,000
Addition to employees quarters	35,000
Concrete smoke stack	12,000
Increasing capacity of sanitary and storm sewers	21,500
New steel roof for boiler room to replace wooden constructions	20,000
Fly screen and strong guards on porches of 6 cottages	9,600
Alterations to water sections, 4 cottages	6,000
Repairs to heating system, nurses' cottage	6,000
Replacing and repairing walks and gutters	5,000
Tree trimming	5,000
Steel breeching and smoke connections, all boilers	5,000
Water-softening system at laundry and main kitchen	3,000
Additional receiving room at laundry	3,000
Additional cold storage at general mess and commissary	3,000
Total	734,700

While the above program, if carried out, would no doubt improve conditions at this branch, it is believed that it is too elaborate and that, in the main, it is not essential. This branch is now conducted solely as a psychiatric hospital. While it has been necessary to refuse admission to veterans who were entitled to and needed the services of this sanatorium, it is believed that ample space could be provided at the Southern Branch, with comparatively small expenditure of funds, and that the additional new construction is not absolutely necessary at this time. The amount appropriated for repairs should be increased for several years so that needed improvements in the sewer and water systems can be made.

6. The store and restaurant at this branch are operated under the supervision of the superintendent of the post fund. The net profit of both was about \$5,400 for the year, which is a very good showing, when the reasonable prices charged are taken into consideration. The cash registers at time of inspection did not check as well as is usually the case when the amount of business done is considered. Three registers were over a total of \$10.68; one was short \$6.74, or a net average of \$3.94. Employees should use more care in making change and registering amount of sales.

7. A test check of narcotics showed that there was a small excess of codeine and morphine sulphate tablets on hand over that shown by the record. It was reported to the surgeon, who stated that the excess would be taken up. The drug room where drugs are kept was not clean at time of inspection. The druggist at this branch has no assistant. It is believed that the necessary steps should be taken to insure proper accounting and cleanliness in the drug room.

8. The library has been screened and supplied with electric fans since last inspection and is now a comfortable place for its patrons.

9. There is on hand in the occupational therapy storeroom a surplus supply of drugs and baskets. Instructions should be given by headquarters for their disposition.

10. A dairy is operated at this branch. The herd yielded 39,708 gallons of milk during the year at a cost of 18.8 cents per gallon.

In addition 75,417 gallons of milk were purchased at a cost of 20.2 cents per gallon.

11. *Records*.—The records of the branch were, as a rule, well kept.

12. *Disbursements*.—The accounts, disbursements, and records of the treasurer were examined and found to be in satisfactory condition. The balances shown at date of inspection were properly accounted for.

Invoices at this branch have been promptly paid, advantage being taken of all possible cash discounts.

13. *Management*.—The affairs of this branch have been administered in a satisfactory manner.

14. *Discipline*.—Discipline continues to be good. There is some difficulty at times with guards and patients, but steps are taken promptly to correct any delinquencies which arise.

15. *Conditions*.—The general conditions at this branch were good.

7. CENTRAL BRANCH, NATIONAL MILITARY HOME, NEAR DAYTON, OHIO

1. This branch was inspected July 29–August 3, 1926. All parts of the branch, including the barracks, hospital, wards, storerooms, mess halls, theater, chapel, library, stables, power house, grounds, and cemetery were inspected by me.

2. The Central Branch was established in 1867, by authority of an act of Congress approved March 21, 1866, and comprises 578.87 acres. It is located in Montgomery County, Ohio, a few miles west of Dayton, Ohio. There are 137 buildings, including 13 barracks (12 brick and 1 frame), 16 hospital buildings (10 brick and 6 frame) and 108 other buildings, including quarters for officers and employees of which 31 are brick, 5 stone, and 72 frame. The land was acquired by purchase at a cost of \$88,445.30.

3. *Officers*.—At date of inspection the officers of the branch were:

Col. F. C. Runkle, governor.

Lieut. Col. Vernon Roberts, surgeon.

Maj. Bernis Brien, treasurer.

Capt. W. G. Stevens, quartermaster.

Capt. J. B. Machle, commissary.

Capt. B. F. Atkinson, adjutant and inspector.

Revs. J. K. Gibson and B. F. Kuhlman, chaplains.

Maj. O. S. Deathridge, chief tuberculosis service

Capt. J. E. Kelly, C. G. Lyons, E. M. Clark, J. J. Vega, A.

J. Choate, William Stranathan, and Lieuts. S. C. Nieman, J. F.

Heath, J. Hartman, E. J. Burnett, R. S. Wilson, W. O. Thompson.

J. C. Hynes, A. J. Brainard, L. W. Orr, S. L. Crowe, J. T. Quirk,

E. Miller and W. H. VanBrackel, assistant surgeons.

Changes in officers since July 1, 1925:

Gain:		Loss:	
By appointment	8	By resignation	5
By transfer	1	By transfer	2
Total	9	Total	7

4. *Population.*—At time of inspection there were—

Officers:		Members:	
Present	27	Present	2,200
Absent	1	Absent	564
Total	28	Total	2,764

The members have had service as follows:

Civil War	706
Spanish War	1,155
World War	903
Total	2,764

5. This branch no longer operates the farm nor has it a dairy. The farm was let during the past year to a farmer for half the produce during the year. During the year 159,162 gallons of milk were purchased at a cost of \$31,865.33.

6. Since last inspection the following improvements and construction were paid for from the post fund:

Fly screening, all barracks and library	\$5,297.00
Redecorating Protestant chapel	3,500.00
Solariums, four companies, including chairs	4,716.06
Sheep and lambs	1,615.00
Iron fence around big lake	1,400.00
Moving-picture machine	600.00
Blood transfusion (disallowed by Comptroller General from appropriated funds)	150.00

7. The post fund hotel has for the past year again operated at a loss. The loss for the year amounted to about \$1,100. The store and lunch room are now operated by a concessionaire, who pays a monthly rental for same.

Unless the hotel is placed on a paying basis and can be operated without further loss to the post fund, it is recommended that its restaurant be closed as a post fund feature, and that it be let as a concession.

8. The grounds, lawns, and flower beds were in excellent condition and the roads were in good shape.

9. *Records.*—The records as a rule were kept as prescribed.

It was found that one person was kept on the pay roll for three months at \$48 while he did not work. The pay checks were not delivered to him and same will be canceled.

10. *Disbursements.*—The accounts, disbursements, and records of the treasurer were examined and found to be in satisfactory condition. The balances shown at date of inspection were properly accounted for.

In the pension fund, the register of checks did not show that some checks were canceled, nor were there receipts on hand from the check accounting division for all canceled checks.

The branch received \$100 for lease of land for parking automobiles, which was accounted for as part of the post fund. Under the law it is believed this money should be accounted for as part of the general fund.

11. *Management.*—The affairs of this branch have been well administered.

12. *Discipline.*—Discipline has been satisfactory. There has been a considerable increase in the number of delinquencies due to the use of intoxicating liquor.

13. *Condition.*—The general conditions at this branch are excellent.

8. GENERAL DEPOT, NATIONAL MILITARY HOME, NEAR DAYTON, OHIO

1. This inspection was made August 3, 1926.

2. The superintendent of the depot is Capt. Roy B. Shook.

3. The work of the depot, which is located on the second and third floors of the main quartermaster building of the Central Branch, is limited to the manufacture of uniform clothing and special-size garments. It receives, inspects, stores, and distributes all articles under the head of clothing appropriation to all the branches of the home.

4. Disbursements of the depot are made by the general treasurer, under whose general supervision the depot is operated.

5. The administration and condition of the depot are satisfactory.

9. MOUNTAIN BRANCH, NATIONAL SANATORIUM, NEAR JOHNSON CITY, TENN.

1. This inspection was made August 4-6, 1926. All parts of the branch, including the barracks, hospital, pavilions, wards, store-rooms, theater, chapel, library, stables, power house, greenhouse, dairy, barns, grounds, and cemetery were inspected by me.

2. The Mountain Branch was established in 1903, by authority of an act of Congress approved January 28, 1901, and comprises 447.48 acres. There are 59 buildings on the reservation, including 5 brick barracks, 4 hospital buildings (3 brick and 1 frame), and 50 other buildings, including quarters for officers and employees, of which 20 are brick, 28 frame, and 2 concrete.

The land was acquired by purchase at a cost of \$29,356.50.

3. *Officers.*—At date of inspection the officers of the branch were:

Col. D. Townsend, medical director and superintendent.

Maj. E. B. Frisbee, assistant medical director.

Maj. J. C. Donnelly, treasurer.

Capt. P. I. Brumit, quartermaster.

Capt. J. Ziesing, commissary.

Cpts. W. R. Hughes and B. C. Murray, chaplains.

Drs. C. A. Neves, J. M. Wallace, D. T. Kimbrough, R. L. Peyton, J. D. Carpenter, F. F. Worman, B. B. Parrish, R. St. Elmo Murray, C. A. Cattermole, W. M. Royal, E. F. Sullivan, M. Hyatt, W. Willien, and R. W. Trent, assistant surgeons.

Changes in officers since July 1, 1925:

Gain:		Loss:	
By appointment	7	By resignation	9
By transfer	4	Dropped from rolls	1
		By transfer	6
Total	11	Total	16

4. *Population.*—At time of inspection there were—

Officers :		Members :	
Present	22	Present	465
Absent	0	Absent	46
Total	22	Total	511

The members have had service as follows:

Civil War	15
Spanish War	52
World War	444
Total	511

During the year the following losses occurred in the membership of the branch:

Discharged:	
Account absence without leave	388
Against medical advice	220
For disciplinary reasons	22
Tuberculosis apparently arrested	410
No manifest tuberculosis	234
Out-patient relief	58
Maximum benefit from hospitalization	51
Transferred to other hospitals	51
Hospitalization refused by Veterans' Bureau and compensation disallowed	10
Deaths	109
Total	1,548

From the number, 625, discharged on account of absence without leave, against medical advice, and for disciplinary reasons, it appears that many men have not taken full advantage of the opportunity provided for their treatment. The facilities, equipment, and food provided for the patients at this branch are excellent, and if a patient follows the medical advice and treatment, his chances for recovery are good.

5. The following is a list of construction and other extraordinary expenditures made during the year from the post fund:

Installation of elevator, Annex 2	3,050.00
Inclosing ward No. 1 of hospital	871.07
Rebuilding baseball grandstand	791.16
Equipping basement of clinical ward with lockers and plumbing	657.50

6. The post fund store at this branch is operated by a concessionaire who pays \$200 a month for the privilege. With the great reduction in the number of members as compared with the date he first received the concession, the business done and the profits of the concessionaire have decreased considerably.

7. A dairy is owned and operated by this branch. The herd yielded 60,442 gallons of milk during the year at a cost of 31 cents a gallon. In addition, 42,610 gallons of milk were purchased at 33 cents per gallon. The records of the hospital show that some of the milk purchased has not been as clean as that produced by the home dairy. It is suggested that the herd be increased so that it will yield sufficient milk for the needs of the branch.

8. *Records.*—The records, as a rule, were kept as prescribed.

At an inspection of the drug room, it was ascertained that a barrel of corn whisky was accepted in connection with a shipment of two barrels of whisky in March, 1926, billed as "Pratt City rye," totaling 53.6 gallons. The invoice was certified correct by the quartermaster.

Several clerks in the quartermaster office handle cash on account of receipts from cleaning, repairing, and sales of supplies and gas. The handling of funds should be limited to one clerk, as is done at other branches.

The office hours of the quartermaster are from 7 to 4, while the treasurer's office hours are reported to be from 8 to 5. As the two offices have much business to transact conjointly, their hours should be the same.

The records of the occupational therapy service were not entered up to date. At time of inspection, August 5, 1926, no money had been turned over to the quartermaster since July 16.

9. *Buildings and grounds.*—The nurses' quarters were in need of interior painting. Some beds in annex No. 1 were in need of painting. The grounds were in an excellent state of police.

10. *Disbursements.*—The accounts, disbursements, and records of the treasurer were examined and found to be in satisfactory condition.

11. *Management.*—The affairs of this branch have been well administered. Due to the decrease in the number of members, the per capita cost of maintenance has been larger than heretofore, increasing from \$916.18 for the fiscal year 1925 to \$1,247.64 for the fiscal year 1926.

12. *Discipline.*—Discipline has been good.

13. *Condition.*—The general conditions at this branch are satisfactory.

10. SOUTHERN BRANCH, NATIONAL SOLDIERS' HOME, NEAR HAMPTON, VA.

1. This inspection was made August 24-28, 1926. All parts of the branch, including the barracks, hospital, wards, storerooms, theater, chapel, library, stables, powerhouse, greenhouse, barns, and grounds were inspected by me.

2. The Southern Branch was established in 1870, under authority of an act of Congress approved March 21, 1866, and comprises 85.36 acres. There are 68 buildings on the reservation, including 11 barracks (7 brick and 4 frame), 5 brick hospital buildings, and 52 other buildings, including quarters for officers and employees, of which 28 are brick and 24 are frame.

The land was acquired by purchase at a cost of \$154,000.

3. *Officers.*—At date of inspection the officers of the branch were:

Col. L. A. Thompson, governor.

Maj. A. S. Miller, treasurer.

Maj. E. N. Schillinger, surgeon.

Capt. D. C. Spencer, quartermaster.

Capt. C. B. Payne, commissary.

Capt. C. Y. Deaderick, adjutant and inspector.

Capt. C. S. Vail, chaplain.

Capt. W. T. Erwin, D. W. Eames, J. C. Newman, and Lieuts. S. B. Woodward, F. Prenatt, G. F. Haig, J. E. Zercher, and C. C. Phillips, assistant surgeons.

Capt. J. J. Cullinan, assistant surgeon, was absent, having been suspended July 26, 1926.

Changes in officers since July 1, 1925:

Gain:		Loss:	
By appointment	4	By resignation	1
By transfer	2	By transfer	3
Total	6	Total	4

4. *Population.*—At time inspection there were—

Officers:		Members:	
Present	15	Present	1,316
Absent	1	Absent	422
Total	16	Total	1,738

The members present have had service as follows:

Civil War	384
Indian War	18
Spanish War	628
World War	251
Other service	35
Total	1,316

5. The following extraordinary expenditures were made during the year from the post fund:

Final payment on telephone contract	\$1,411.40
Payments on milk contract	1,822.50
Garage for ambulance	183.32

6. A special congressional appropriation of \$56,000 has been made for repairing revetment and dredging Jones Creek. The accomplishment of this work was turned over to the Engineer Department, United States Army.

7. The cold storage room in the commissary storehouse should be rebuilt. It is too old to be of real good service.

8. Barracks are in need of interior painting.

9. Roads are in need of repair.

10. The quartermaster storehouse was clean and a model of what a well-arranged storehouse should be. The quartermaster gives the several shops, heat, light, power plant, etc., close supervision.

11. Mental cases of the Spanish-American and Civil War are cared for at this branch. The cost of their ration was less than the average cost of the Army ration for the fiscal year 1926. These men are old and they should be taken care of in the best possible manner. If Government appropriations are not available, the post fund should be used in order that these men may be furnished with more amusements, and such fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, and delicacies as are suited to their needs.

12. *Records.*—The records, as a rule, were kept as prescribed. A number of canceled pension checks were not so marked on the register of checks issued, but appeared as outstanding.

The records of the occupational therapy service should be revised and so kept as to readily show an accounting for all receipts and all supplies.

The records of narcotics in the drug room were not up to date and a test check showed an excess on hand over amount shown on records. These should be taken up.

It was noted that during the past year 6.29 gallons of whisky were dropped from the records on a certificate of the surgeon that loss was due to spillage, evaporation, and breakage. Whisky was kept in barrels. A better plan would be to keep the whisky in sealed glass containers which would not be subject to evaporation.

13. *Disbursements.*—The accounts, disbursements, and records of the treasurer were examined and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

14. *Management.*—The affairs of this branch have been well administered.

15. *Discipline.*—Discipline has been good.

16. *Condition.*—The general conditions at this branch are satisfactory.

11. EASTERN BRANCH, NATIONAL SOLDIERS' HOME, NEAR AUGUSTA, ME.

1. This inspection was made August 30–September 3, 1926. All parts of the branch, including the barracks, hospital, wards, store-rooms, theater, chapels, library, stables, powerhouse, greenhouse, dairy, barns, grounds, and cemetery were inspected by me.

2. The Eastern Branch was established in 1866 by authority of an act of Congress approved March 21, 1866, and comprises 1,884 acres. There are 52 buildings on the reservation, including 7 barracks (6 brick and 1 frame), 2 frame hospital buildings, and 43 other buildings, including quarters for officers and employees, of which 4 are brick and 39 frame.

The land was acquired by purchase at a cost of \$23,900.

3. *Officers.*—At date of inspection the officers of the branch were:

Col. K. Ryan, governor.

Maj. W. T. Hanley, treasurer.

Maj. J. W. Loughlin, surgeon.

Capt. N. L. Perkins, quartermaster.

Capt. D. F. Ivory, commissary.

Capt. J. R. Waltmam, adjutant and inspector.

Capt. A. J. Hayes, chaplain.

Cpts. E. J. Burness, F. T. Masengill, and Lieuts. J. E. Stephan, F. W. Day, and J. P. Savage, assistant surgeons.

Changes in officers since July 1, 1925:

Gain:	
By appointment	3
By transfer	2
Total	5
Loss by transfer	3

4. *Population.*—At time of inspection there were—

Officers:		Members:	
Present	10	Present	657
Absent	2	Absent	225
Total	12	Total	882

The members have had service as follows:

Civil War	203
Spanish War	440
World War	239
Total	882

5. During the year the following improvements and other extraordinary items were paid for from the post fund:

Repairs to greenhouse	\$2, 311. 58
Hospital solarium	880. 75
Solarium in barracks square	699. 42
Painting club house	182. 77

6. The post fund hotel at this branch was operated at a profit of \$403.37 during the year. The store profits were \$1,041.05. The reduction in profits is due to a reduction in prices, as was recommended last year.

The hotel is well managed. The employees are courteous and the service is good.

7. The dairy herd yielded 44,500 gallons of milk during the year at a cost of 30.78 cents per gallon. No fresh milk was purchased. The dairy was exceptionally clean at time of inspection.

8. While the amount of anthracite coal consumed in some of the quarters of officers and employees showed a decrease during the past year, it is believed that by the exercise of due care and supervision, the consumption on anthracite coal can be materially reduced.

9. The treasurer's office needs painting. Its lighting should be modernized. The lighting at time of inspection was not up to the usual office standard.

10. A member of the Board of Managers has received on prescription from the hospital at this branch as high as 4 quarts 8 ounces of whisky at one time. The total amount received by him from July 1, 1925, to date of inspection, was over 23 quarts.

11. Fire escapes should be provided with some protection from snow and ice during the winter.

12. Some beds need painting.

13. Some interior painting is needed in barracks.

14. *Records.*—The records were, as a rule, kept as prescribed.

When a member dies having money on deposit with the members' deposit account, it is not turned over to the general or post fund.

15. *Purchases.*—The following subsistence supplies on hand at time of inspection did not comply with specifications:

Canned pears: Kieffer instead of Bartlett as specified.

Canned pineapple: Broken slices instead of full slices as specified.

Apples, evaporated: Not of good quality.

Apricots, evaporated: Not of good quality.

16. *Disbursements.*—The accounts, disbursements, and records of the treasurer were examined and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

It was noted that the post fund cash book and sales book were not placed in the safe at night.

There was no proper voucher on hand at time of inspection for the transfer of \$8,547.83 made July 1, 1926, from the post fund to the president of the Board of Managers.

17. *Management.*—The affairs of this branch have been well administered.

18. *Discipline.*—Discipline is good and showed improvement during the year.

19. *Condition.*—The general conditions of this branch are very good. The grounds, barracks, and hospital were in an excellent state of police and reflect credit upon the management.



16. *Inspection.*—The accounts, disbursements and receipts of the treasurer were examined and found to be in a satisfactory condition. It was noted that the post-paid cash book and sales book were not placed in the safe at night.
- There was no proper receipt on hand at time of inspection for the transfer of \$2,547.25 made July 1, 1920, from the post fund to the president of the Board of Managers.
17. *Management.*—The affairs of the branch have been well administered.
18. *Discipline.*—Discipline is good and showed improvement during the year.
19. *Condition.*—The general condition of this branch are very good. The grounds, barracks, and hospital were in an excellent state of police and reflect credit upon the management.

